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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Daniel HANSEN et al.      Art Unit : 2121  
Serial No. : 09/503,508                              Examiner : Sheela S. Rao  
Filed : February 14, 2000  
Title : INTELLIGENT VALVE FLOW LINEARIZATION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY

In reply to the action mailed October 10, 2001, reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending, with claim 1 being independent.

Claim 1 recites an open loop method of controlling flow rate of a fluid through a valve flow modulating member that is controlled by a position of a valve stem. The method includes, among other aspects, determining a target valve stem position and adjusting a valve stem position until the valve stem position matches the target valve stem position.

Claims 1-15 are rejected as being anticipated by Haines. Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because Haines fails to describe or suggest determining a target valve stem position or adjusting a valve stem position until the valve stem position matches the target valve stem position, as recited in claim 1.

As set forth in the reply dated July 27, 2001, the controller described by Haines adjusts the valve in a particular direction until a calculated flow rate (not a position) matches a target flow rate (not a target position). See Haines at col. 7, line 58 to col. 8, line 2 and Fig. 5.

The Examiner points out that Haines adjusts the "throttle to a position that matched the flow rate" and cites passages at col. 2, lines 40-51 and at col. 8, lines 47-51. However, the first passage merely describes a controller that adjusts a "throttling element